Please return this form

To support and Encourage the Teaching of Special Religious Education (SRE) at Hornsby and Normanhurst High Schools.

I wish to make a financial contribution to the work of the Normanhurst Christian Education Association which provides Christian Studies programs at Hornsby Girls' and Normanhurst Boys' High Schools.

Amount	\$	by		
☐ Cash	☐ Mastercard	□ Visa	□ Cheque (pa	ayable to NCEA)
Credit o	ard donations			
Name on Credit Card		First Name		Surname
Expiry Date		/		
Credit Card Number				
Signatu	re			
For Direct Debit: BSB 062-308 A/c 2804 5640 Christian Education Assoc. Inc. – Please advise the Treasurer at glendaleport@yahoo.com to enable a receipt to be mailed to you.				
Title First Na	First Name			
Email ar	nd Address			
Church			Phone	Date
Post to: Normanhurst Christian Education Association Inc. PO Box 2061, NORMANHURST, NSW 2076				
(ABN 27 478 553 930) ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE				
Enquires to the Treasurer - Mrs Glenvs Porter – Phone 9489 3568				

For more inform

For more information go to https://ncea.net.au

CHURCHES LINKED TO THE ASSOCIATION

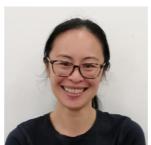
Chinese and Australian Baptist Church, Thornleigh Hornsby Uniting Church Wahroonga Anglican Church St Stephen's Anglican Church, Normanhurst Thornleigh Hillcrest Uniting Church

Waitara Gospel Chapel

Northern Life Baptist Church, Hornsby Normanhurst Uniting Church St Peter's Anglican Church, Hornsby Thornleigh Community Baptist Church Wahroonga Presbyterian Church



Love the Students!



It was a wonderful surprise to be reunited with my SRE teacher, Wendy Swanton, during our annual prayer morning tea in September. Wendy taught me from 1994, from Years 7 to 10, and I was curious to hear her reflections and keen to glean any wisdom. Wendy's advice was simple: **love the students.**

Perhaps I was hoping to hear her secret for engaging disinterested students or some creative technique I

had not thought about before. Yet, her advice, while seemingly obvious, was a timely reminder that at the heart of SRE is relationships.

This semester has been particularly intensive, writing new units on World Religions and Ecclesiastes and it has been easy for lessons to become information based, without addressing matters of the heart. Wendy's exhortation reminded me of the apostle Paul's love for the Thessalonian church. He cared for them like a nursing mother and a father dealing with his own children.

School life presents many opportunities to share "not only the gospel of God but our lives as well." (1 Thess 2:8) There are Bahn Min Wednesdays, where some staff walk to get lunch. There is a constant flow of students coming through the library, or students to chat with as they serve in the school's internal café.



Highlite offers a space to pray, and for more relaxed connections.

Please pray that God will grow my love to be like Paul's love for the Thessalonians and that I will seize every opportunity to share Jesus both inside and outside the classroom.

Christine Chin, SRE Teacher HGHS

Responding to God's Grace!



The story of Jonah is quite intriguing! A simplistic children's storybook might present the message as Jonah disobeys God, then God uses a large fish to bring him back to obedience to go and preach to Nineveh. Yet this conveniently ignores Jonah's attitude in Chapter 4. This dissonance creates a great opportunity for me to challenge the preconceptions the boys have as they come to the Bible.

In Term 4, Year 8 students will look at the book of Jonah, some for the first time, others hopefully in a new light. We will be drawing on lessons learnt from Terms 1 and 2, where we looked at how the whole Bible fits together as one story that is all about Jesus, as well as learning new tools to approach an ancient text.

As we study the culture and context of Jonah, students will see how the author is challenging them with a message from God, not simply "Will you obey God?" but "What limits do you want to put on God's grace?"

My prayer for them, is that they will not just have new skills in reading an old text, but that they will personally be challenged to consider how they want God to respond to those whom they consider enemies, and what that means in God responding to them graciously even when they, were his enemies.



PRAYER POINTS

Normanhurst Boys'

- Give thanks for good engagement with the lessons about Jesus from Year 7 students, and pray that they would be challenged by the death and resurrection of Jesus, and consider his claims for themselves.
- Pray that Year 9 students would see that "life under the sun" is ultimately meaningless, so we need to include God in the picture.
- Pray Year 10 would learn to recognize bad arguments against Christianity, and learn how to make good arguments for what they believe.

Pray for wisdom for Tony as he prepares a new unit for Year 10 in Term
 Pray too for the leaders of the Friday lunchtime group, 'Connect,' as they prepare Bible discussions on Hosea, this term.

Hornsby Girls'

- Pray Year 7 students remember the stories from Genesis in a way that allows them to trace biblical themes, and see how the Bible fits as one big story. Pray the Holy Spirit convicts of their sin and need for Jesus.
- Pray that Christian students in Year 8 will model what knowing Jesus, looks like.
- Pray Year 9 students will reflect on their own beliefs, and after exploring the diverse spiritual convictions of major religions, will gain clarity on which one makes the most sense, and is attractive to them.
- Pray Year 10 students will believe their sense of worth is found in Jesus.
- Give thanks for the Wednesday Christian lunchtime group, 'Highlite,'
 and pray for wisdom and confidence for the new leaders, as they write
 and lead Bible studies on a variety of topics this term prayer, selfcontrol, motivation, forgiveness etc. Pray the meetings are
 characterized by love and hospitality to new students/those on the
 fringe.

END OF FINANCIAL YEAR NEWS! - October 2024

We give great praise and thanks to God for generous donors!

From a budget of \$146000 for 2024, \$122000 has been received, leaving \$24000 still needed. Please pray that God will supply.

Thank you to all of you who have so generously supported.

The Australian Tax Office has endorsed the Normanhurst Christian Education RIGS(Religious Instruction In Government Schools in Australia) Fund as a tax deductible gift recipient. Our bank account details are identified over the page. However, receipts reflect the name Normanhurst Christian Education RIGS Fund.

Donations to support this ministry can be forwarded by cash, cheque, online direct debit, or credit card (see over page).

Glenys Porter,

NCEA Treasurer, October 2024